



Missouri Backflow Prevention

Public Drinking Water Program fact sheet

7/2003

Program Update

The state regulation governing backflow prevention, 10 CSR 60-11.010-.030 (www.sos.mo.gov/adrules/csr/current/10csr/10c60-11.pdf), was revised in 1997. The revised regulation was effective on Jan. 1, 1998. This regulation applies to all community water systems. The responsibilities of the customer, water supplier and the Department of Natural Resources remained much the same. However, a notable change to the reporting requirements was made. Under the new regulations, the water supplier is now required to notify the department anytime a backflow incident occurs. In the past, notification to the department of a backflow incident was generally considered a courtesy rather than a requirement.

Backflow is prevented by the construction of an air-gap separation or the installation of either a reduced pressure principle assembly or a double check valve assembly on the customer service line. The department maintains a current list of approved backflow prevention assemblies. To be included on the list, the manufacturer of the device must obtain approval from the Foundation for Cross Connection Control and Hydraulic Research of the University of Southern California (www.usc.edu/dept/fccchr/). All air gaps shall be inspected when installed and at least annually thereafter by personnel from the water purveyor. All backflow prevention assemblies shall be inspected and tested annually by a certified backflow prevention assembly tester.

Perhaps the most significant difference between the old and new regulation is the change in the requirement for obtaining certification as a backflow prevention assembly tester. Under the old regulation, the Department of Natural Resources reviewed and approved training courses offered for certification of backflow prevention assembly testers. Students that successfully completed the course were added to the list of approved testers. Under the new regulation, each candidate for certification as a backflow prevention assembly tester must successfully pass a written and hands-on performance examination provided by either the American Backflow Prevention Association (ABPA) or the American Society of Sanitary Engineering (ASSE). Certification is now granted based on performance-based criteria rather than specific course criteria.

The written examinations provided by both the ABPA and ASSE contain about 100 questions covering the basic required knowledge for application and testing of backflow prevention assemblies. Most exams utilize basic knowledge questions to allow acceptance of the certification on a national level. However, the certifying agency has the option of using fifteen questions specific to local requirements. A third-party proctor must administer both the written and performance examinations. Course instructors may not proctor their own students.



For More Information

For more information on backflow prevention contact the department's Public Drinking Water Program at:

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